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In this Spring 2000 issue of European Judo News we have been able to search out items that reach across Europe from East to West. This shows the vitality of our sport and demonstrates the ongoing developments in Europe as a whole. As Editor I welcome all contributions from the member Federations, be they concerning major policy changes, spectacular events or just snippets of entertaining news. In my role as IJF media assistant I now travel extensively and can collect a wide range of Judo information myself, but I really appreciate Federations taking the time to keep me up to date. This is your Newsletter. Please use it. ●

European judo news

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Olympic Judo Champion Douillet uncertain of Sydney title defence

France's Olympic champion David Douillet has warned he is still uncertain about defending his title at Sydney's Games because of a back injury. Douillet, pulled out of the World Championships in Birmingham last October and has not competed since the European Championships in May 1999. He has been trying to get over an injury to a disc in his back between the fourth and fifth lumbar vertebra. The reigning Olympic champion, was aiming to restart training in February, but was not sure whether he would be fit for Sydney. "I'm still not ready for retirement. I want to make the Games and give a good performance there. Maybe all the negative feelings that I've been building up for some time will be transformed into positive energy."

A decision will have to be made before the deadline for the selection of the Olympic judo team on May 23rd. As three times World Heavyweight Champion, Douillet's absence would be a huge blow to France. Douillet was the first non-Japanese to win the double of +95kg and Open category. Two years ago he returned from leg, collar bone and shoulder injuries suffered in a motorbike accident.



IJF Bronze Medals for Italy

During the closing ceremony of the International Judo Federation's 4th International Seminar, in Ostia, Rome, IJF President Mr Y.S.Park awarded the IJF Bronze medal to both Mr Pelleicone (above), the Italian Judo Federation President and Mr Capeleti (top), the Vice President of FILPJK. This was a gesture of thanks for all the help they had given to make the entire week such a great success.

Europa Club Cup 1999

With the new rounds of the Europa club Cup about to start, we thought it pertinent to report on last years exciting finals held in Oradea, Romania. The organisation of this event was second to none, with a packed hall the atmosphere was electric. The semi final between Taifu and Kenamju was incredible with the lead first being taken by the Dutch Title holders and then being levelled in the next contest. This tit for tat situation continued throughout the match so everything rested on the last contest. The dead lock was finally broken in the last match when Tailus Mirzaliyev Ruslan scored Ippon after only 55 seconds denying Kenamju the chance of retaining the title.

Mytnyk and Liberty's semi final was not such a close affair with a clean sweep for Liberty by 7 wins to 0. Mytnyk continued in this vain against Kenamju in the Bronze match conceding only two Ippons but still losing by 7 matches to 0. Liberty's winning streak continued in the final beating Taifu 6:0. The winning team of, Kengi Uematsu -60, George Revazishvili -66Kg, Denis Ogienko -73Kg, Sergio Domenichi -81Kg, Alexei Mihailov -90Kg, Antal Kovacs -100Kg and Alexander Mihalyn +100Kg gave the home crowd the result they had all come to see, and showed the rest of Europe just what an incredible spectacle this competition can be.

Russia's New Judo President

PLANS IN PLACE FOR THE SYDNEY OLYMPICS AND BEYOND



Mr Vladimir Chestakov, formerly from the Ural region of Russia, has recently been elected as the new Russian Judo Federation president, a federation with about 150,000 players.

In an interview at the Rome Tournament Mr Chestakov (aged 39) said *"After the last World Championships in Birmingham the Russian Judo team found itself in a difficult position, with only two medals, one silver and one bronze, our Judo Federation realised it was time to change and we had meetings and elections and that is how I became the new Russian Judo President. The first change that we have made is to employ Mr Nevzerov (ex Olympic and World Champion at -70kg) in the position of head coach. As we approach the Olympic Games we have been technically preparing the athletes. I know there is very little time to prepare for the Sydney Olympics but we will work on it and be ready for the next Olympic Games"*.

"The plan for the next European championships is to employ a new head Women's coach along with the Mens' coach. The personal coaches won't travel, as they are doing at the moment, but will help with preparation at home."

"The main problem right now is the money. Before, the funds were provided by the government and we could pay for travel, so people could train together. Now we don't have enough money to invest in Judo and with the economic situation as it is, it is not possible to charge players to be members of the National Federation. In order to do better, players are privately sponsored. I myself have a business in selling oil products abroad and I sponsor players. I graduated from the Russian Foreign Trade Academy a month ago. With the problems of such a large country we have two main centres for training, in the more affluent regions of Siberia and Moscow. We would like every region to have its own Judo centre, then we wouldn't have to spend money on air tickets. We hope that Judo will start to really develop in the future." ●

"I know there is very little time to prepare for the Sydney Olympics but we will work on it..."



George Kerr – 9th Dan

GEORGE KERR RETIRES FROM EJU AND IJF SPORT COMMISSION

In a surprise announcement George Kerr, 9th Dan, has tendered his resignation from the EJU Sports Commission and, as a result, the IJF Sports Commission. Mr Kerr stated “I have had a fantastic time while involved in judo. I have done everything. I have attended all but one Olympics since 1964, as a Referee, (refereeing Olympic finals), a Coach (of two times Olympic Champion Peter Seisenbacher AUT) and as an Official, and at 63 I have decided to stop while things are still good. Although I had two years left to run, I have to commit my time now to running my business”.

The EJU would like to thank George for all his hard work and the great commitment he has always shown. We wish him well in the future. ●

Referees Corruption Allegation

THE SYSTEM IS TO BLAME

The European Judo Union are very pleased that fears of corruption (which resulted in overpayment of referees expenses) have proved to be unfounded.

The findings of an independent investigation carried out by lawyers Giles Kennedy and Luc Carlé (who completed their work without charging any professional fees) have been presented to the Directing

Committee of the EJU who have subsequently issued the following unanimous statement dated 25th March 2000.

1. There were administrative mistakes.
2. There was no case of corruption or bribery
3. The organising club was authorised to refund the expenses of referees

4. The refund made to the referees was excessive. To avoid similar mistakes or misunderstandings in the future, new precise rules will be applied.”

The report clears the referees in question from the allegations of corruption and says that no individual is to blame for the situation, but the EJU system was at fault if such a situation could develop. The rules will have to be altered to ensure that this will not

happen again. For example, people who might have a vested interest in the result of the competition cannot be involved in the payment of expenses. Member federations who wish to see the full report should apply in writing to the EJU Secretariate. ●

EJU REFEREEING SEMINAR 2000

The EJU Refereeing Seminar run by Juan Carlos Barcos Nagore and members of the EJU Refereeing Sub Committee, will be held from 7-10th June 2000 in Eilat, Israel. A maximum of 4 delegates per Federation are allowed, and must of the highest possible level, but an unlimited number of observers may take part. The cost of \$700 US includes entry, accommodation and board, as well as one video cassette.

Contact EJU Headquarters for further details.



Benboudaoud (FRA) – outright men's winner.



Isabel Fernandez (ESP) – joint winner.

EUROPEAN PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

In an unprecedented result the European Player Of The Year has ended in a draw. In the men's categories Benboudaoud of France was the clear winner, but amongst the women's there was an even result between Gella Vandecaveye (BEL) and Isabel Fernandez (ESP). The awards will be made in Wroclaw, Poland at this years European Championships.

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Gella Vandecaveye (BEL) – joint winner.

4th Youth Seminar

Malta 28th -30th July

Arriving Thursday 27th and leaving from Midday on Sunday 30th

Because the IJF seminars took place in the FILPIK centre in Ostia, Rome this year, we have decided to hold this years' Youth seminar in Malta. In our previous seminars held in Rome we began to sound out what was happening throughout Europe, learning from each other: then we started putting all the material together. How to teach children: how to teach youths and how to keep them interested, (with Judo Games and a lot of technical preparation); how to handle children. We will be looking at what aspects of Judo should be taught to children and at what age specific things should be introduced into the various grading levels, also how to assess gradings. This year under the supervision of the Medical commission we will be looking at Puberty and the effects on both boys and girls and assessing what the knock-on-effect of Puberty has on Judo. This age can be a very sensitive time and affects boys and girls differently and at different ages. We need to understand what is happening at these ages so we can treat these age groups in differing ways appropriate to their requirements. We will be talking about the concept of a Black belt, why do we aim for a Black belt? We will talk about the concepts of Judo and the etiquette which we expect within Judo.



Envic Galea

We will also be looking at the teaching of children from the ages of 11 to 16, the introduction of Sports Psychology, and finally the subject of developing activities that will help keep young Judoka in the club. We are losing a lot of people in the 13 to 14 year age groups. The drop off is drastic at this age and what we have to look at is what we can do to keep them in the sport. A generic programme is planned. Applications are open to all coaches but they have to come through the National Governing body. Last year

we had 71 participants, if it keeps growing we will have to put a limit on numbers, but at present there is no limit placed on each country.

Envic Galea

FINLAND'S HEAD COACH RETIRES

Finland now looking for new head coach

Mr Juha Salonen (pictured right), Head coach of Finland for eight years has decided to retire. He has been in the position since finishing his competition career and has now decided to give his family and work as a physiotherapist more time. Mr Salonen said "I will continue coaching in my club, but Nationally we are looking for a good judo coach, and someone who could teach our coaches. Our contest hopes lie at present with Beltanin at -100kg and Latvia -81kg but there have been a lot of injuries this season. Unfortunately we have not managed to qualify for Sydney". There are about 12,000 judoka in Finland in about 130 clubs. Main tasks for the new coach will be: Chief of Coaching, to develop Finnish Judo Instruction, development of youth coaching and training and to coach men and women's national teams. The priority is to teach national judo instructors, secondly to coach the national men and women's team. This position is full time from Autumn 2000 to 2004, salary is according to contract.



For further details contact:- Mr Kaj Lindberg, The Finnish Judo Association, Radiokatu 20, 00093 SLU, Finland, Tel +358-9-2221729 Fax +358-9-2221885, email: toimisto@judolitto.fi

JOINT TRAINING IN JAPAN

In Japan, plans are afoot for three Olympic-related combat sports – judo, wrestling and sumo – to hold a joint training camp for their athletes some time in April. The idea is that the clash of styles and exchange of strategies will boost Japan's Olympic medal hopes in Sydney.

In the past Judo and wrestling have held joint pre-Olympic training camps, but the proposed gathering at Yamanashi Gakuin University will be the first one to include amateur sumo wrestlers.

"We have quite a few things in common in terms of strategies and the care and prevention of injuries. But in the end, we hope this will help strengthen the athletes technically as well as in heart and body," said Tomiaki Fukuda of the Japan Amateur Wrestling Federation.

The training camp is being held about six months before the Sydney Games and coaches from the three sports along with sports psychologists will be providing their expertise. Yasuhiro Yamashita the National Judo team coach expressed his hopes that Japan can take three Olympic gold medals in the men's competition and is looking for seven medals altogether.

This target is one more than the two Olympic titles taken by Japan in 1996 at the Atlanta Games, but could be seen as somewhat conservative after Japan's four men's world titles taken at the world championships in Britain last October.

NEW RULE FOR THE OLYMPICS

Much discussion has been generated within the International Judo Federation Refereeing Commission by recent statistics gathered from the 1995-1999 World and Olympic Championships. Specifically these statistics indicate that the percentage of Katame-waza in contest, (consisting of Ne-waza, Kansetsu-waza and Shime-waza) is on the decline. In 1995 the percentage for women was 26.1% and for men it was 24.2%. In 1997 this dropped to 11% for women and 4.7% for men, and by 1999 it was down to 9.1% for women and 4.1% for men. Having identified this trend the question has to be asked, "why?" It is possibly due to:-

1. Referees stopping the fights on the ground too early, and consequently not allowing time for Katame-waza to develop.
2. Coaches having realised that the time on the ground has been reduced, which may have encouraged them to concentrate more on standing techniques.
3. Difficulties in applying Shimi-waza because judo-gi collar thickness, in some instances, is too great.

To address these possibilities the commission will be increasing the guidance given to referees so as to ensure adequate time is allowed for Newaza. They also asked the Executive Committee to consider limiting the collar thickness to 1cm and collar width to 5cm. These new rules regarding collar thickness will come into force at the Sydney Olympics. The new Referees measuring callipers will have a slot in the handle to ensure collar sizes are correct. They will also have a blue colour guide to ensure that all blue suits conform to the Pantone Blue Specified. ●

New Coach for Iceland

Mr Yoshihiko Iura, 6th Dan, who graduated from Shuba University with a Masters Degree in Physical education is now established as the new Trainer and Technical Director for the Icelandic Judo Federation. Speaking of his wide range of experience prior to taking up the position he said: "I went for two years to teach judo in Iceland before returning to Japan and then went for two years teaching as an expert in Tunisia. Subsequently I worked for the Kodokan, then afterwards for the Kanashawa University in the West of Japan, before returning to Iceland to take up the position of Trainer and Technical Director for the Icelandic Judo Federation."

He went on to say "The population of Iceland is very small, about 270,000 people. At present there are 9 clubs but the judoka have not been practising very efficiently, and there are hardly any women practising. Our hope is to increase the numbers of people involved in Judo and also increase the range of ages of people practising.

Prior to my first visit the teacher in Iceland was Mr Kim Murata, (who is now curator of the Kodokan museum). He is a friend of mine and when he decided to leave he told me that the Icelandic people wanted to continue working with a Japanese teacher. I was recommended for the position by him and subsequently offered the position. I said "Yes, but where is Iceland?" I was just interested in teaching judo abroad.

I'm no stranger to Icelandic weather. Usually people think that it is very cold, but at altitude it is much



Yoshihiko Iura – the new Trainer and Technical Director for the Icelandic Judo Federation.

warmer than Canada. We are warmed by the Gulf stream and so don't have any frozen seas. Finland and Sweden are much colder. We also have geothermal activity in Iceland so there is a lot of hot water, which is used for domestic heating, and there is a lot of clean water.

The summer nights in Iceland are very short, it might be a silly idea, but we are thinking organising a Championships for the light nights, fighting at Midnight! Possibly called the Midnight Sun Competition. The federation doesn't have a full time secretary but we have a website. The address is a little bit complicated as it is in Icelandic, but I can be contacted directly at "iura@vortex.is" and we welcome enquiries from Judoka." ●

OLYMPIC ANTI-DOPING

The IJF, along with the Basketball and Badminton federations have agreed to start out-of-competition dope testing within a month, in advance of the Sydney Olympic Games. The World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) has identified 15 sports that have failed to carry out random, out-of-competition drug tests. The other 12 are wrestling, baseball, volleyball, handball, gymnastics, taekwondo, shooting, sailing, softball, fencing, hockey and soccer.

WADA secretary Harri Syvasalmi said the body's aim was to test half the 10,000 Sydney Olympic competitors

before the Games village opened in mid-August.

"If everything goes well we could start in April but we have very little time."

He said the WADA had set a three-week deadline for negotiating a system of drug tests for athletes in all sports. Under agreements already in place, the Australian Sports Drug Agency can randomly test players from each of the sports within Australia. ●

EJU CALENDAR 2000

APR

31st Mar–2nd Apr	A–Tournament	Rotterdam, Holland
7th–8th Apr	EJU Congress	Basel, Switzerland
22nd Apr	Europa Club Cup 1st & extra rounds	
22nd–23rd Apr	Junior A–Tournament	Clermont-Ferrand, France

MAY

6th–7th May	Junior A–Tournament	Portugal
17th May	Directing Committee meeting	Wroclaw, Poland
18th–21st May	Senior European Championships	Wroclaw, Poland
27th May	Europa Club Cup 2nd round	

JUN

7th–9th Jun	Prep. Ref. Seminar	Israel
8th–10th Jun	Ref. Seminar	Israel
10th Jun	B.D.P.	Antwerp, Belgium
17th Jun	Europa Club Cup 3rd round – home match	
17th–18th Jun	Junior A–Tournament	Gothenburg, Sweden
24th Jun	Europa Club Cup 3rd round – away match	

JUL

3rd Jul	EJU Training camp	Castel del Fes, Spain
17th–27th Jul	Men's Training camp	Aix-en-Provence, France
22nd–23rd Jul	–17 European Championships	Oradea, Romania
23rd–31st Jul	Women's Training camp	Boulouris, France
27th–30th Jul	Youth Seminar	Malta

AUG

30th Jul–4th Aug	EJU Training camp	Papendal, Holland
5th–6th Aug	A–Tournament	Minsk, Belarus
7th–11th Aug	EJU Training camp	Hoogdele, Belgium
12th–13th Aug	B–Tournament	Bonn, Germany
12th–13th Aug	B–Tournament	Vilnius, Lithuania
18th–19th Aug	Directing Committee meeting	Antwerp, Belgium
19th–20th Aug	Junior A–Tournament	Hungary
26th–27th Aug	Junior A–Tournament	Poland

SEP

9th–10th Sept	Junior A–Tournament	Czech Republic
	B–Tournament	Belgrade, Yugoslavia
16th–17th Sept	Junior A–Tournament	Germany
15th Sept–1st Oct	Olympic Games	Sydney, Australia

OCT

14th Oct	Europa Club Cup Semi-final and Final	
26th–29th Oct	Junior World Championships	Tunis, Tunisia
28th Oct	ECC Women	
28th–29th Oct	Junior A–Tournament	Herentals, Belgium
28th–29th Oct	A–Tournament	Tbilissi, Georgia

NOV

4th–5th Nov	Junior A–Tournament	Athens, Greece
18th–19th Nov	European Team Championships	Belgium

DEC

8th–10th Dec	Junior European Championships	Cyprus
14th–17th Dec	World University Championships	Malaga, Spain

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